east. Thus oriented, the house is excellently ventilated and immune from the invasion of gnats and other insufferable mosquitoes, which are the agony of those who live in the heart of the forest or on the banks of streams. The rays of the rising sun penetrate freely into the house and overcome the morning cold, which is quite intense. The ehcá is only for sound men, warriors, and their sons over eight years of age.

Each warrior slings his hammock wherever he pleases inside the house.

On the ground, and also towards the east, stand three rows of posts connected by crossbeams where the warriors string their hammocks on clear summer nights. [103]

Each warrior keeps within his reach everything he owns, hanging from the roof of the ehcá above his hammock -- bows, arrows, waschab, and horn.

They all sleep in hammocks woven of cotton thread and so small that they must lie motionless so as not to fall on the floor.

The cotton is planted by the Indian women, who also prepare the thread and the netting.

Inside the ehcá, many fires burn at night amid the warriors' hammocks.

Around the ehcá stand the houses of the women, which also shelter the children of both sexes, the decrepit old men, and the sick.

In Necodemon these houses are five in number, quite large, built with greater care [than the ehcá], higher and completely enclosed, having as a door only one opening or sometimes two. There are no interior partitions whatever: the house is altogether communal, but the mothers, with their children, their decrepit old men, and their sick, each take care of one part of the house and there hang their hammocks. Near them they keep their implements, namely: bowls, looms, baskets, etc. In the center of the house stand one or two ovens to make manioc flour; they consist merely of crude stones, more or less flattened, standing on other stones. A fire burns under this oven. The warriors may come into the women's house whenever they please, but the women never set foot in the ehcá. It is in the women's houses that the more precious objects are kept, such as feather ornaments, necklaces of human teeth, enemy heads, etc.